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Rockwell Marvin
CIA-01 Turner, Adm.

(orig under SALT)

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM CBS Evening News

STATION WDVM TV
CBS Network

DATE April 19, 1979 7:00 PM CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT The Turner Testimony

WALTER CRONKITE: CIA Director Turner last week told a closed door Senate hearing that the loss of electronic monitoring bases in Iran would complicate efforts to verify Soviet compliance with a new strategic arms treaty. He said it would be at least five years before all U.S. intelligence operations, including monitoring Soviet missile tests, were restored.

The Administration quickly went on the defensive trying to downplay Turner's assessment. But as Marvin Kalb reports, the Turner testimony is causing the Administration more trouble than it has admitted.

MARVIN KALB: Talk to officials here at the State Department, the White House, or the Pentagon, and for the first time in a long time they all agree on one thing: CIA Director Stansfield Turner has severely complicated the President's chances of getting Senate approval for a new SALT agreement.

Although the President's own attitude towards Turner is not known, other high officials can barely contain their fury and disappointment.

SALT negotiators believe it was Turner who made verification the highly controversial and political issue it has now become. Officials are sharply critical of Turner's testimony last week before the Senate Intelligence Committee, during which he reportedly gave a somber estimate of U.S. monitoring capabilities following the loss of two intelligence bases in Iran. And significantly, Turner remains the only senior official who refuses to say that the new SALT agreement soon to be announced can be adequately verified. This position, as relayed by a CIA spokesman, is that only the President can

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and should make that judgment.

Turner's apparent skepticism has confusion and deepened doubts on Capitol Hill about the whole verification issue, despite repeated assurances in recent days from other senior officials that the new SALT treaty can and will be verifiable.

Marvin Kalb, CBS News, the State Department.